



Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

February 22, 2022

The Honorable Miguel Cardona  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20202

Dear Secretary Cardona:

We write to request your department consider investigating the recent proposal in Florida House of Representatives to withhold \$200 million in funding from twelve Florida school districts that instituted mask policies at the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year. Fining school districts based on the number of administrators making more than \$100,000 is arbitrary and capricious. In your October 28, 2021 complaint to the Office of Administrative Law Judges (OALJ), you reference universal masking policies were consistent with CDC recommendations for K-12 schools at that time.<sup>1</sup>

Florida is the third largest state, but unfortunately ranks 46<sup>th</sup> in per-pupil support. These additional reductions in funding exacerbate an already strained system. Under this proposal, Orange County Public School District's funding would be reduced by \$16.5 million, and combined Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach County school districts would not receive \$128 million in funding.

This proposal is another attempt to punish these school districts that implemented universal masking policies during an ongoing global pandemic. Thank you for your full and fair consideration, consistent with all applicable laws and regulations, to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Darren Soto".

Darren Soto  
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Debbie Wasserman Schultz".

Debbie Wasserman Schultz  
Member of Congress

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<sup>1</sup> [Microsoft Word - FL cease and desist 10.28.21 \(miamiherald.com\)](https://www.miamiherald.com/news/politics-government/civil-rights/article238451100.html)



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*Kathy Castor*

Kathy Castor  
Member of Congress

*Charlie Crist*

Charlie Crist  
Member of Congress

*Theodore Deutch*

Theodore E. Deutch  
Member of Congress

*Al Lawson*

Al Lawson, Jr.  
Member of Congress

*Frederica S. Wilson*

Frederica S. Wilson  
Member of Congress

*Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick*

Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick  
Member of Congress

*Val B. Demings*

Val B. Demings  
Member of Congress

*Lois Frankel*

Lois Frankel  
Member of Congress

*Stephanie Murphy*

Stephanie Murphy  
Member of Congress